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FOREST HEALTH INFORMATION ALERT-APRIL 2015

PINYON NEEDLE SCALE EGGS ARE ALREADY HATCHING IN THE PRESCOTT AREA

Due mainly to the very warm temperatures experienced early in the year, pinyon needle scale eggs are already hatching in the Prescott area. For the second year in a row, egg hatch is about a month ahead of normal.

The scale “crawlers” are moving out on the pinyons, and attaching themselves to the green needles on the ends of the branches.

The crawlers appear as tiny black dots stuck to the green needles. This is the stage of this complex insect which initiates new infestations of pinyons every year.



It may be **too** late to remove the egg masses which were laid by the female scales in February. Check the egg masses for the telltale yellow color indicating eggs have not hatched and remove immediately!

The tiny scale crawler stage attached to the needles can be chemically treated using an EPA-approved insecticide. The insecticide label should state that the chemical is for treatment of “scale crawlers”. Trees should be sprayed as soon as possible before the scale insect develops a thicker protective cover.

CAUTION! Insecticides used improperly can be injurious to humans, animals, and plants. Follow directions and heed all precautions on the labels. **Contact a qualified and licensed professional applicator for the proper treatment of your tree(s).**

Unless there are local water restrictions, consider slow, deep, and infrequent watering of infested pinyons around your home starting now, with a properly installed and maintained drip system, or with a soaker hose placed around the dripline of the tree. Continue watering until the “monsoon” rains are well established. Also refer to the Cooperative Extension watering brochure at: <http://cals.arizona.edu/pubs/water/az1298.pdf>.

For further information about this insect, or other forest and woodland health concerns in the Prescott area, contact: Bob Celaya, Forest Health Specialist, Office of the State Forester at (602) 771-1415 bobcelaya@azsf.gov or our field office in Prescott at 928-778-9567.

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